

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 061921Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8482

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02889

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR ANNENBERG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER TO FOREIGN
SECRETARY CALLAGHAN

REF: STATE 44597, STATE 44362

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AT 4:30 THIS
AFTERNOON TO DELIVER YOUR TWO MESSAGES. AFTER READING
YOUR CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE CALLAGHAN SAID HE WAS DE-
LIGHTED. AS TO THE SECOND IN WHICH YOU OFFERED TO SEND
MESSRS. SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN TO MEET HIM NEXT WEEK,
CALLAGHAN SAID "THE ANSWER IS YES."

2. NOTING THAT HE VERY MUCH LIKED THE IDEA OF EARLY
CONSULTATIONS WITH TWO OF YOUR CLOSEST ADVISERS,
CALLAGHAN SAID THAT THERE MIGHT BE A COMPLICATION WITH
THE MARCH 13 DATE SINCE ON THAT DAY HE ANTICIPATED THAT
HE WOULD HAVE TO CONDUCT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEBATE
ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECH WHICH IS TO BE DELIVERED ON MARCH
12. HE THOUGHT MARCH 14 OR 15 MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT
FOR HIM IN VIEW OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITMENTS. BUT
HE UNDERScoreD THAT HE WANTED TO SEE SONNENFELDT AND
HARTMAN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND PLANNED TO
GIVE THEM FULL TIME. IT WAS LEFT THAT THE FOREIGN
SECRETARY'S OFFICE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY AS

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SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SUGGEST ALTERNATE DATES.

3. CALLAGHAN TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO YOU THROUGH AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM FOR DELIVERY DURING HIS CALL THIS AFTERNOON. HE THEN OBSERVED THAT US-UK RELATIONS WERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. TO THIS I RESPONDED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES MUST DO ALL WE POSSIBLY CAN TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLES. I OBSERVED THAT I HAD BEEN SADDENED BY THE CONDUCT OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR. CALLAGHAN COMMENTED THAT ONE HAS COME TO EXPECT THIS, ADDING THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW THE FRENCH "TO HOLD US UP." HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE KEYSTONE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THIS BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES; IF THE UNITED STATES SEES THINGS THIS WAY TOO, THE BRITISH WILL BE PLEASED. "I WILL DO MY FULL PART," CALLAGHAN SAID, "BRITAIN WILL NOT BE A US VOICE BUT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ARE VITAL." TO THIS I INDICATED HEARTY AGREEMENT, AND ADDED THIS MUST BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF MUTUALITY OF RESPECT.

4. CALLAGHAN CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO PUT "MORE MUSCLE" IN THE UN. HE WAS CONSIDERING SENDING A MINISTER OF CABINET RANK TO THE UN AS HAD BEEN DONE SOME YEARS AGO. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH IN A UN CONTEXT, HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LAW OF THE SEA. HE ALSO WANTED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH, AND GENERALLY TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WITH MORE OF A GLOBAL THAN REGIONAL APPROACH. HIS EXPERIENCE AS CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER HAD CONFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT MANY PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE SOLVED IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT.

5. ADDRESSING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, CALLAGHAN SAID HE FOUND IT A LITTLE "CLAUSTROPHOBIC." BRITAIN WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TRY TO GET OUT BUT WOULD SEEK A "BETTER DEAL." IF BETTER ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE OBTAINED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUT THE OUTCOME TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE, BUT NOT NECESSARILY THROUGH A REFERENDUM. TO MY COMMENT THAT A REFERENDUM WOULD UNDERCUT THE EFFECTIVENESS AND AUTHORITY OF PARLIAMENT, CALLAGHAN RESPONDED THAT IN
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THE PRESENT SITUATION IF THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT LASTED A YEAR AND UK NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY EMERGE ABOUT THE TIME OF AN ELECTION, THEN A GENERAL ELECTION WOULD SUBSUME THE QUESTION OF PUTTING BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE. HE MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL ITSELF TIED TO ANY PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION TO PUT THE ISSUE
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8483

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EXDIS

OF EC MEMBERSHIP TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE. THE UK WOULD PROCEED SLOWLY IN THE EC. HE ADMITTED THAT HE "DID NOT CARE FOR" THE EC TENDENCY TO MOVE TOWARD FEDERALISM. HE SIMPLY FELT THAT THE EC WAS NOT EFFECTIVE AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE AN ALLIANCE OF STATES. AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THE OECD WAS A BETTER FORUM FOR COOPERATION, IN PART BECAUSE IT COMPREHENDED JAPAN, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES WHOSE ROLES WERE SO IMPORTANT, BUT HE DID NOT PURSUE THIS THEME AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE EC. HE UNDERScoreD THAT "I DO NOT WISH TO DESTROY THE EC AND DO NOT WISH IT ILL." CALLAGHAN CONCLUDED BY ASSURING ME THAT HE INTENDED TO PROCEED "STEP BY STEP" WITH NO CONFRONTATION IN THE EC. "WE ARE A MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND WE WILL NOT FOLLOW A NEGATIVE FOREIGN POLICY," HE STATED.

6. COMMENT. MY TWENTY-MINUTE TALK WITH CALLAGHAN TODAY WAS MARKED BY THE GREATEST CORDIALITY. I WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUT EVEN MORE BY HIS OBVIOUSLY STRONG AND WARM FEELINGS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE FOR BRITAIN OF STRONG, HEALTHY TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN THE FEW DAYS IN WHICH THIS LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE IT HAS MADE VERY CLEAR ITS HOPE THAT US-UK RELATIONS WILL BE MARKED BY BOTH CORDIALITY AND AFFIRMATIVE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAVE NOTED TO US THAT THE WORD HAS GONE OUT FROM THE FOREIGN

SECRETARY'S OFFICE THAT US-UK RELATIONS ARE TO HAVE TOP
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PRIORITY. NEEDLESS TO SAY I AM GRATIFIED BY SUCH EARLY
INDICATIONS OF A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE UNITED STATES
BY LEADERS OF THIS GOVERNMENT. THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
BE MANY ISSUES ON WHICH WE AND THIS GOVERNMENT WILL DIF-
FER STRONGLY, BUT THE MARKED DISPOSITION OF ITS LEADERS
TO PUT US-UK RELATIONS ON THE SOUNDEST POSSIBLE FOOTING
WILL BE VALUABLE WHEN THE TOUGH ISSUES CONFRONT US BOTH.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO OTHER INTERESTED POSTS AS
APPROPRIATE.

ANNENBERG

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